GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1916
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2016
Wage Rates under MGNREGS
Singh Shri Pashupati Nath

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where wage rates under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is lower than the minimum wages along with the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government on determination of wages at State level for the centrally sponsored schemes; and

(c) the various measures taken by the Government to ensure payment of uniform wages across the country under the MGNREGS and other centrally sponsored schemes for rural development?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a): Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, States/UTs may fix different minimum rates of wages payable to employees employed in different categories of employment and these rates may be fixed for a part of the State or for any specified class or classes of such employment in the whole State or part thereof. Hence, there is no single wage rate fixed for unskilled manual labourers common to all categories of employment. In view of this, no comparison can be made with notified wage rates under Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

Also, Section 6(1) and Section 28 of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, 2005, give the Central Government, the power to determine its wage rates independent of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(b): The wages of workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) are protected against inflation by indexation with the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL) and are accordingly revised every year w.e.f. 1st April.

(c): Under Section 6 of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, different wage rates are fixed in respect of all States/UTs. As the MGNREG Scheme for implementation of the Act is prepared and implemented by the States/UTs, hence there is no fixation of a uniform national level MGNREGA wage rate. The wage rate fixed on 01.12.2008 by the States for unskilled agriculture labourers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, was adopted and notified as the wage rate under Section 6(1) of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act vide Government of India Notification dated 1st January, 2009. Subsequently, the wage rate in respect of all State Governments/UTs have been revised under a settled wage policy of the Government of India.

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